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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God of the universe, thank You for giving us another day.

Quicken our spirits so that we will know the blessings of living together in unity and peace. We have our personal aspirations and ideas of what is best. Grant that we might know the satisfaction from sharing our common concerns and experiencing the joy of mutual accomplishment.

Bless the Members of the people's House with success in bringing fruition to all efforts to work toward common solutions to the issues facing our Nation, solutions which seem so distant in these days.

During the days of the coming week, may the American people be able to communicate their hopes for the efforts of their Congressmen and -women. May they understand, as well, that a unified nation is equally the work of each of us where we live.

May we be men and women who live without excuse, and may all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Washington State (Mr. KILMER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KILMER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

WE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER THE STUDENTS OF TIANANMEN SQUARE

(Mr. ROTHFUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, on June 4, we mark the 25th anniversary of the massacre of peaceful protesters in Tiananmen Square in the People's Republic of China. These protesters were merely calling for democracy, an end to the dictatorship of the Communist Party, and an end to government corruption.

The Chinese Government has tried to remove Tiananmen Square from the

consciousness of its people by censoring social media and preemptively arresting those who would raise questions, pick quarrels, and provoke trouble. We will always remember.

We will remember the art students who sculpted the "Goddess of Democracy," a defining image of the Tiananmen Square protests, inspired by the Statue of Liberty. We will remember the Tank Man, who single-handedly stopped Chinese tanks in their tracks. We will remember the hundreds, perhaps thousands—there has never been an official counting—of those who died that day.

The spirit of the protesters lives on in these stories of heroism. That spirit lives on in all those around the world who value freedom and human rights.

We will always remember the students of Tiananmen Square. And to the Chinese people who yearn for freedom, do not give up hope. One day, you too will breathe free.

IN MEMORY OF PUYALLUP TRIBAL CHAIRMAN HERMAN DILLON, SR.

(Mr. KILMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a historic leader for the Puyallup Tribe, for the State of Washington, and for our Nation. The longtime Puyallup tribal chairman, Herman Dillon, Sr., passed away last week at the age of 82.

Chairman Dillon led a life dedicated to ensuring that the tribe and our region can continue to thrive for generations to come.

Chairman Dillon began a long career of service first by joining the U.S. Naval Reserve. And during the Korean war, he was drafted into the Army and spent 2 years honorably serving our country in Pusan, Korea.

Elected to the Puyallup Tribal Council in 1971, Chairman Dillon played an

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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instrumental role in seeing through a number of historic achievements, including the Puyallup Indian Land Claims Settlement, the Washington State Gaming Compact, and key economic decisions that led to the Puyallup Tribe becoming the third largest employer in Pierce County, Washington.

Mr. Speaker, Chairman Dillon and his wife, Darlene, also served their community as foster parents, opening their hearts and homes to support many children in need.

The tribe and our entire region are stronger and more prosperous as a result of his vision and unwavering efforts to build a brighter future. He will be sorely missed by the tribe, by our region, and by me.

THE PRESIDENT HAS FAILED VETERANS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the President's failure to provide lifesaving services to our veterans is a tragedy. Complaints of delays, preventable illnesses, and deaths have plagued the Veterans Administration for years.

The President promised corrections while campaigning for the White House in 2008, yet the failures have accelerated, with more scandal, neglect, and incompetence. It is shameful that the President finally discussed this issue after claiming to have recently heard about it in the news.

This week, I joined others asking for the President to remove VA Secretary Eric Shinseki and appoint a new Secretary who can get the job done and give our veterans the health care they have earned and deserve for ensuring our freedom.

I appreciate Keven Cohen, "The Point" talk show host, for promoting veterans. American Legion Commander Dan Dellinger recently said, "This isn't personal. VA needs a fundamental shift in leadership if it is to defeat its systematic lack of accountability." As a Legionnaire myself, I couldn't agree more. The best way forward is to change course to restore faith for our veterans, military families, and the American people.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

EPA CARBON POLLUTION STANDARDS

(Mr. HOLT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, Speaker BOEHNER said he was not qualified to debate the science of climate change, but he was confident that all plans to deal with climate change would hurt jobs and our economy.

Mr. Speaker, I am a scientist, but that doesn't uniquely qualify me to debate climate change. As Members of Congress, we rely on the expertise of others to inform our decisionmaking.

And I agree with the overwhelming consensus among scientists: the climate is changing largely as a result of human activities, and we can and must act now—not because I am, myself, a scientist, but because of peer-reviewed reports, like the IPCC and the National Climate Assessment.

Less than a year ago, in a speech announcing his Climate Action Plan, President Obama said that he would direct "the Environmental Protection Agency to put an end to the limitless dumping of carbon pollution." This coming Monday, the President will make good on his promise when the EPA proposes the first-ever limits on carbon pollution from existing power plants, which are responsible for about 40 percent of U.S. carbon pollution.

We, as a country, have already been forced to endure the costs of unlimited carbon pollution as more frequent and intense extremes continue to cost us in lives and dollars. While the draft carbon pollution rules have yet to be released, of this I am sure: no matter the perceived cost of action, the costs of inaction will be far greater.

RESTORING TRUST WITH OUR VETERANS THROUGH VA ACCOUNTABILITY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, disclosures of abuse and neglect at our VA hospitals have been absolutely intolerable. This week's release of the interim report from the VA inspector general highlights the urgency in identifying the full scope of these tragic and potentially deliberate abuses and the need to hold officials at all levels to account for these failures.

Since elected, I have remained in close contact with the VA hospitals serving the Fifth District of Pennsylvania, and I want to thank the committed public servants who work so very hard to provide the best possible care and support to our veterans in those facilities in this region of the country.

Last week, the House, with bipartisan support, passed H.R. 4031, the VA Management and Accountability Act, and I am a proud cosponsor of that bill. While I am glad the House came together to pass this important reform, I encourage the Senate to do the same. So much more must be done to correct these specific abuses and impose accountability and trust across the VA system moving forward.

Mr. Speaker, the brave men and women who have served our country in uniform deserve nothing less.

IN MEMORY OF MAYA ANGELOU

(Ms. LEE of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with a sense of sadness, yet gratitude, that I rise to honor the life and the memory of a great, phenomenal warrior woman, Dr. Maya Angelou. I offer my condolences to Dr. Angelou's friends and family, including her son Guy Johnson, who is both a friend and constituent, as they celebrate and mourn her spirit-filled life.

I will forever cherish the private moments I had the privilege to share with Maya. One I recall was when, years ago, she invited me to her beautiful home, where we talked in her living room as sisters about our lives, our struggles, our passions for improving the human condition. I confided in her about the many challenges I faced after voting against the authorization to use military force. She encouraged me, and the affirmation she gave to me during those trying times will always be with me.

I tell you, Dr. Angelou lived life to its fullest, and she shared with the world the essence of a purposeful life. I will hold her words, "be certain that you do not die without having done something wonderful for humanity," close to my heart, knowing that she was one of humanity's greatest gifts.

While the world grieves in Dr. Maya Angelou's passing, we can take comfort in the fact that her words and her legacy live on in generations of people who have been touched, challenged, and inspired by her work. We will miss her tremendously, but Dr. Maya Angelou's legacy and her spirit will live on forever.

FLOODING IN SERBIA, BOSNIA, AND CROATIA

(Mr. PERRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my sincere condolences to the people of Serbia, Bosnia, and Croatia affected by severe flooding in recent weeks. The epic flooding is the worst the region has seen in 120 years. Making matters worse, there are reports that landmines from the most recent Balkan war are being shifted due to the landslides, only adding to the dangers of people and rescuers in the affected areas.

Having experienced flooding that displaces families myself and, more importantly, having served in the region during my military career, the people of the Balkans hold a special place in my heart. My thoughts and prayers are with them, and I wish them Godspeed.

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY

(Ms. KUSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1